



Arab champions return home

Bahrain's U18 basketball squad lands to hero's welcome



TDT | Manama

Bahrain's under-18 basketball team received a rousing reception at Bahrain International Airport yesterday, arriving home as Arab champions after clinching the title in Sfax, Tunisia.

The Bahrain Olympic Committee organised the welcome, with Basketball Association vice-president Nader Al Awadhi and secretary-general Abed Al Ansari among officials greeting

the squad with flowers.

"Discipline. Fight. Consistency."

The team's run through the tournament earned praise for their composure under pressure before lifting the Arab crown.

Bahrain sealed the title with an 85-73 final victory over Egypt at Al Raed Al Bejaoui Hall—defending champions turned back-to-back kings, winning the Arab under-18 championship for the second consecutive year.



Paris FC confirm Rosenior taking over as coach



Liam Rosenior is greeted by Chelsea fans before a Premier League match
AFP | Paris

Paris FC yesterday announced that Liam Rosenior was taking over as coach.

"The English manager has signed a contract with the club until June 2028 and will take up his post on Thursday 9 July, when team training resumes," said a club statement.

Rosenior replaces Antoine Kombouare, who joined the Parisian side, owned by the LVMH luxury group, in February and steered them clear of the relegation battle to finish 11th, with notable wins over Monaco and champions Paris Saint-Germain.

"Following this season and after discussions between all parties involved, it was decided to bring this collaboration to an end in order to open a new chapter in the club's history," said the club statement.

It will be Rosenior's third club in under a year. He was

sacked as Chelsea manager after less than four months in charge in April after leaving Strasbourg, where his free-flowing game lifted the club into the top third of Ligue 1.

"Aged 41, Liam Rosenior already has a wealth of experience at the highest level," said Paris FC. "He has quickly established himself as one of the most promising coaches of his generation."

Antoine Arnault, representative of the Arnault family which owns the club, expressed his enthusiasm for Rosenior.

"My family and I are delighted to welcome Liam to our club and to see him return to our league here in France. I have always been impressed by his philosophy of play and by what he has built with his teams, which often consist of young players," Arnault said.

Traeen takes yellow, Pedersen wins Tour de France 4th stage

AFP | Foix

Norwegian Torstein Traeen claimed the coveted race leader's yellow jersey as Denmark's Mads Pedersen won the fourth stage of the Tour de France yesterday.

Traeen stripped reigning champion Tadej Pogacar of the jersey just two days after Norway stunned five-time winners Brazil at the World Cup thanks to a brace from Erling Haaland.

Pedersen, who was world champion in 2019, stormed to victory in a sprint finish ahead of Lidl-Trek team-mate Quinn Simmons in second with Spaniard Raul Garcia taking third at the end of the 182km stage from Carcassonne to Foix in scorching temperatures which topped 40C at one point.

It was Pedersen's third stage victory at the Tour following one each in 2022 and 2023 and was enough to see him take the green points jersey.



Lidl - Trek team's Danish rider Mads Pedersen celebrates as he crosses the finish line

Traeen, who had started the day just over five minutes behind reigning champion Tadej Pogacar in the race lead, was part of an initial 34-man breakaway which formed around 25km

into the stage.

That had been whittled down to 10 over the day's final climb and Traeen came home in eighth.

With the peloton finishing 13

minutes after the stage winner, Traeen now leads the yellow jersey standings by 28 seconds from American Sean Quinn, a fellow breakaway companion who finished ninth on the stage.

Pedersen's Lidl-Trek team-mate Mathias Vacek, who finished the stage 10th, is now third overall at 3min 50sec and now leads the young rider's white jersey competition.

Pogacar dropped to fourth at 7min 53sec, on the same time as his arch rival Jonas Vingegaard in fifth.

For Traeen, 30, it will be the second time he has led a Grand Tour, having worn the leader's red jersey at last year's Vuelta a Espana for four days.

He is the third Norwegian to wear the Tour's yellow jersey after Thor Hushovd, who is now Traeen's Uno-X Mobility team manager, did so in 2004, 2006 and 2011, and Alexander Kristoff, who held it for one day in 2020.

Martinez ends Portugal tenure with World Cup exit

AFP | London

Roberto Martinez confirmed that he was standing down as coach following Portugal's World Cup last-16 exit to Spain.

The 52-year-old Spaniard saw his side lose 1-0 to a late Mikel Merino goal at the home of the Dallas Cowboys.

The 52-year-old, who was consistently criticised for sticking with ageing captain Cristiano Ronaldo no matter what, had been in charge since 2023.

Before that he was manager of Belgium, following tenures



Portugal's Spanish head coach Roberto Martinez gestures during the match

in British football with Swansea, Wigan and Everton.

Martinez, whose departure was expected with his contract ending, said: "It is true that it was my last game with the Portugal national team."

"Thank you to the Portuguese people because it was an incredible period, a pride which I can't describe."

"All that strength, energy we had from all the fans, from all the Portuguese people was incredible."

"Thank you for this and I take with me a memory for life."